

Interview with Dr. Alfred Wolff, 12 September 1985.

Tape Side 1.

Transcriber's note. There are many portions of the tape which are indistinct. Dr. Wolff mumbled a lot.

Allen: When did you come to the Jr. college, then.

Al: I came to the Jr. College, the first day here was August 19th, 1946.

Allen: You beat me by six months.

Al: Yes. Those were the days when they were bringing in people every few weeks. I came in with a math teacher named John Sherry, about the same time. Summer school was very, very busy place and proceeded to have an onslaught on faculty and students in September.

Allen: What was your position?

Wolff: Well, I answered an ad from Barton, a Jr. College I'd worked with in Pshychology and Sociology and came up here for an interview, and at that time Halsey was acting President and interviewing faculty (?) Interviewing people in groups and he brought up four or five of us in, one was Professor John (?) socialogy and psychology and after about five minutes, he said, "sorry fellows but that job has already been taken." This professor was, so sore, he really raised the devil, he really was and I think justifiably very angry. I didn't bother, I just kept my mouth shut. A few weeks later on, there was another opening and at this time it was for Ass't. Director of Student Personnel and instructor in Psychology. So I came up then and saw acting Pres. Halsey. I remembered the interview of a few weeks before. and I was seen by Chauncey Fish who was then Director of Student Personnel, Henry Littlefield, he was the Vice President and that's how I got the job.

Allen: You came then as Ass't. Director of Student Personnel and instructor in Psychology.

Wolff: Right. It was a heavy load. I taught six hours, just about worked student personnel full time, and then in addition Harry Becker, one of the Deans then, he wanted me to do some night work for him also and the pressure was just tremendous regarding night work in those days. The faculty had 18 semester hours and they were to test that publically. There were faculty meetings. I don't know if you remember Pres. Halsey saying, what

do you want to have less, cut down and we'll pay you proportionately, and it got so bad that a bunch of us got together and thought we really ought to fight back and there were some of us who were going to start a union. And those people included (?) and Adessa in Public Relations, and I remember Eugene Falk was part of that group. And, but it didn't work toward a union but I remember being a faculty representative and it was only a matter of time and a faculty representative, but they were very hard nosed, Halsey and Littlefield, and when I started to really protest and fight for faculty. It was one day in December, December, 1946, the Christmas vacation. I was called in and I was told at that time that if I continued my fight, I should have a good future at the Univ. of Bridgeport then the Jr. College of Conn. and that if I kept on with my aggressive ways that my career would be over. I must admit paranoia, but I sold my soul that way and I guess the next year I was pretty much part of the administration. I had to stop my aggressive fighting for faculty rights at that time because I couldn't win. But eventually I think we all know what Littlefield did. We certainly have gone a long way since those days. Things were rough.

Allen: Well, to skip ahead a little bit, you retired when?

Al: I retired, officially, I retired at the end of May, 1981. I've been here actually, 35 years.

Allen: And during that time you held positions as Director of Student Personnel and then what else?

Al: I was originally instructor in Psychology and Ass't. Director of Student Personnel. I fortunately kept my faculty rank and went from Psychology to Education. I became Prof. of Education and I became Director of Student Personnel and then in 1960 when I changed positions to Dean of Student Personnel. I was Dean of Student Personnel until 1974, at which point I felt it was time to change and I spoke to Dr. Miles about it and I, after, very frankly some friction which we don't need to discuss right now, it dealt with my own department at that time. I became a full time teaching professor and a counselor in the Resources Department and held that job until I retired. About six or seven years it began as part of a coordinated counseling the aging program it involved teaching courses in student personnel to students of higher education. Very frankly, those were happy years also. Being a full time teacher, I enjoyed the administration but I particularly enjoyed teaching full time teaching, taking the summers off.

Allen: Why did you stay so long?

Al: I think the reason I stayed so long is that I had different jobs and as a growing institution, the job I had in 1946 was very different to 1952 and different to 1960 and then you have the so

called troubled 1960's with student dissent, a different kind of deanship and then the Dean of Students was very important, very visible and then in 1972 the emphasis was away from the Dean of students and more the Academic Deans and Vice President of Academic Affairs. In 1974 and 75, a full time teaching was very challenging in a new field and therefore I would say that I had very, I never had the same job. I had many interesting, exciting jobs at an institution which I was critical of but basically loved and still love, that I felt it was a good place to be, I felt comfortable. I knew people here and I had friends and I had enemies, but I liked it and sure enjoyed the students. I felt I was, you know, (?) so I was getting a lot of job satisfaction and both the (?) programs when I was a dean and then teaching, I was very satisfied. I would say that once or twice I would stumble and occasionally I would have a job offer but the University of Bridgeport I was comfortable. I liked the people, a change might not be that good, would not benefit me that much.

Allen: I can empathize with much of what you said. Let's go back to those olden days. First of all, Cortright was still president but not very active, he wasn't too well at this point when you came and when I came.

Al: When I came he was absent, not inactive. He was sick and at that time it was a combination of Halsey and Littlefield .

Allen: Do you know how that came about, two people of equal power?

Al: I only have a faint recollection. Its kind of a deal I guess Kittkefiled insisted upon but of course later on I guess he insisted on becoming President of the Junior College.

Allen: We'll get into that a little bit later. Actually, Halsey had left the Jr. College to take position as headmaster of a prep school. I don't know which one, up in upper Connecticut, and found that it was virtually bankrupt and then came back to Cortright and asked to be brought back. In the meantime, Cortright had brought in Littlefield. And Cortright took him back, as a matter of fact, Halsey had even sold his house and had to get it unsold.

Al: It was interesting that Cortright took Halsey back. He must have liked Halsey.

Allen: Yes he did. I found quite a few references of rather high praise for Halsey by Cortright, in a number of instances, particularly in annual reports of the president. Halsey did a lot of things including recruiting, advertising, public relations, and then the evening division and so forth.

Al: And also I think the main thing I recall about Jim was that

he was a great developer of new ideas, new programs. He would dream but the dream contained (?) Instead of thinking about money first, and the budget to do it, He would have a dream and then try to get the money. I think he was responsible for a good many interesting science programs, although at the end he had to retire.

Allen: Let's talk about Jim a little bit more. What do you recall about him?

Al: Well, I recall mostly good things about Jim. He was (?) but he was very good to me. He fought for my deanship when there was opposition from Littlefield and with the Board of Trustees and I found him a massive man, soft spoken, but he had many ideas, so many ideas that actually when I say professional (?) his idea of guidance was to lead people rather naturally, help them make decisions themselves. He was old fashioned in that sense and very frankly there were times, but only occasional times when I found that the work would fall through, but I found that I liked him, I warmed up to him. He was a private person. He didn't get involved in a very close way with the faculty or the people, I know because I had a good chance to be pretty close because I was active in the Parent's Assn. with the Halseys, Julia and Jim (?) a great deal and he was very friendly but it wasn't the kind of friendship where you really exchange your innermost problems and thoughts and so on. It wasn't that kind of contact. I had the feeling that that is true of other people. They didn't, the other deans, just didn't get that close to him. I respected him, I liked him and I remember how, for example, his nice manner and good looks and calmness impressed the parents. He was really kind of a hero with the parents. I remember also, which I admired very, very much, that when he became, he was moved upstairs to Chancellor (?) He has been the Chief official of the University of Bridgeport (?) He didn't do a lot of talking against Littlefield or the Board of Trustees or any at all. I didn't hear it anyway and I remember at sometimes we would be in a Dean's meeting and Littlefield would really be very angry at him, He had no right to do this, and so on. In a way, I saw this as really humiliating for Jim Jim would go on speaking calmly. I just felt that he took adversity with grace. I always go back to the early days when he would have these tremendous plans for the Univ. of Bridgeport when we were only a small Jr. College, You will also remember this, Bill. He had these plans for buildings, for enrollments and all kinds of things and I would say to myself "we are only a small Jr. College, how's this man ever have any great idea of things like this. This isn't going to happen, but they happened, even beyond that sometimes. And I'm not saying he did this alone. Littlefield was instrumental and I think the faculty and other administrators were, but there was something about him, he dreamed and he dreamed) wild dreams but so many came true.

Allen: You referred again to being kicked upstairs. What do you know about this bad situation? Where Halsey became Chancellor and Littlefield the president.

Al: All I know is that Bodine, then Chairman of the Board, called me in with Henry Littlefield. They were very, very close and I know that it was managed to some extent by Bodine and I heard, and again this what I heard, it's heresay, that it was done while Halsey was away and they took a vote and they decided that Littlefield was going to be in control. It was very obvious Littlefield asked for it. No question about that. He had the support of both the (?) Outside of that I have forgotten now. It was a very, very sore situation. I mean very, very difficult. I think most of the deans at that time, cause I was a dean just about the time that this thing happened, most of the deans were very supportive of Littlefield. They thought he was a strong man. He knew what it was all about, he was practical in his budget and he also had a good idea of education and they thought this was fine. I, myself, didn't. I liked Littlefield but I just felt it was a tough situation. I think that Jim held himself up like a man.

Allen: Henry Littlefield.

Al: Littlefield has charisma. If I have a cocktail party, I want Henry Littlefield. I enjoy talking to him. He's a guy who is, has a lot of ideas. Very sensitive, very touchy but he's strong and he's willing to fight. I'm trying to think of some of the early things that were interesting. I worked with him as dean and I knew if I had an idea, that if I came in the first time, (?), get into an argument, its going to be no. And after a while, he really had some very, very important, very, very strong and if he's strong, he'd point out to you to fight for it. He knew that it was that important. And maybe about the third time you'd get Henry to say, yes. Because you really had to put up an argument for it, you just couldn't do it once and I had the sort of feeling, that Henry loved to argue for argument's sake, even though he would get kind of red in the face at times, you could see the ears getting red and so on, but at the same time he kind of liked it, and I think if you didn't do that, Henry would have no respect for you.

Allen: I remember getting him almost purple one time. I've forgotten what it was about and I don't know whether I won or lost the argument.

Al: The thing about Henry was, you always knew where you stood. He was a honest guy and he, you know, he was smart. He did have control of the budget, he built this university up when they didn't have much money. People criticized him because of all kinds of different buildings because they were least expensive and so on but we were lucky to have buildings at all. And they

were much, much improved. There's something about him that, I, if other Deans could appear as before the time when the vice presidents were in the present cabinet. And in fact I'm trying to think, does the present cabinet come later on or not? The Deans had the Dean's Council. And so Littlefield took over the Dean's Council. But the Deans had a very strong way of telling Littlefield and that isn't always true when people work for somebody on top. They saw him as a good man. He socialized with the deans, his wife, Jeannie, would do this. It developed that when something happened in your family, they cared, because they were, unlike Jim, they exposed themselves more. I should say, Henry did. It really hurt. He knew what he was hurt. When Bruce was killed, for example, Or you knew when he was fighting for something that should have gotten a certain respect, he would kind of tell you about it. You knew when he felt that his administrators were doing something wrong, he would get angry and tell you about it. He was very much a human being who laid himself wide open. He was also strong and got things done. I liked him a lot and always respected him and I felt very sorry for him during the days of confrontation. It was a one issue thing, you were supposed to be a hawk or a dove, and he cared about the university, he cared about students and he just happened to president at the wrong time and he was enough of a, he believed in his own convictions enough not to change them (?) and so students gave him a hard time. The faculty at that time gave him a hard time and I think he left with a heartache.

Allen: We'll come to that period of his life later on. I've got a squeaky chair here. I've got to take it apart and try to tighten it.

Al: I must say, this is an enjoyable session.

Allen; Good, I'm enjoying it too. The Dean's Council. You made reference to it and that you sat on the Dean's Council. What was the role in the Dean's Council during that time?

Al: The Dean's Council played a very important role. It was before when I first sat on it, which was in 1960-61 and in the first place I thought I was getting into a sacred club because those deans didn't turn over, the way they turn over now. They'd been there for many, many years, maybe 25 years, like Ropp and Bigsbee, I felt they were a very sacred, respected group. I was very much impressed by the Deans, at least as a group. You know I was Dean of Student Personnel and I was in all kinds of positions, from faculty, in the end it might be Littlefield's decision. it was like Lincoln's cabinet, but actually we were making decisions regarding salaries, I would make a statement about a person who wasn't a very good advisor and that would be, you know kind of an effect, and the deans were making decision on all kinds of matters. They were, I'll give you an example, who was going to be Department Chairman, this might be the Dean

himself, he might discuss this in Dean's Council, but there really wasn't much going back to faculty. You know when I first became Dean in 1960-61, the Deans were the committees, the deans were a committee that took action on so many matters which later on became faculty and student rights.

Allen: Do you think that had anything to do with the formation of the Faculty Senate?

Al: Oh sure. You know that yourself. I'm trying to think of the on the curriculum. There is no question about the Faculty Senate was needed from a faculty standpoint because the Deans were going and abusing power.

Allen: What was the dean's attitude towards the Faculty Senate at that time?

Al: I think that, I must say the deans were an adjustable group in the sense that they might think a little bit, but in the end they did recognize that was necessary. I think the deans like the (?) students and they liked the faculty also and so I don't recall, myself, any big problem that the deans had with the Faculty Senate, as far as getting it into shape. And they also had representation on the Senate. In fact they all were there. So we were a part of what was going on. And we had uneven proportion later on. I think they had, well they have it today with everything (?)

Allen: Well every dean is (?). All right, let's go back to some of the other people in the olden days. Clarence David Luther Ropp.

Al: If I was going to cast a play, twenty years ago, and have a so-called typical dean in the play, it was going to be Clarence Ropp. He looked the part and spoke the part so beautifully. He was a man of great integrity, he was a little "stuffy" and would come out with, spoke very well, particularly in public. I would have all these old fashioned platitudes, sort of like a, as if he was just (?) and he just, he was a gentleman of the old school. (?) and he certainly expected, he addressed everybody by their last name. Would expect respect, and good manners, certainly did not like off colored jokes. Would speak in regard to the value of education and so on and so forth. Would speak well and he was so old fashioned. A lot of people, including myself especially, but he was like the dean that maybe my father might have had in 1908-1910. He had read the book. He was the old fashioned Dean.

Allen: Did you know that Emily was his second wife?

Al: Yes, I knew that. At the time I first heard it, it surprised me.

Allen: Do you know anything about the first marriage? I don't know much about it myself. She had been a student and then went on to get her bachelor's elsewhere, Simmons, I believe and then they were married and it didn't last too long. But no one seems to know what happened there. And then he married Emily and, as you say, it was a good choice. His habit of calling people by their last name. Have you ever heard him call anyone by their first name, other than their last name?

Al: What did he call Bill Everett? I don't know, I don't remember him calling anyone by their first name.

Allen: I don't either. In the Dean's Council, it was the same way?

Al: Yes, it was always by the last name.

Allen: Did his, well I will use the word intransigence, on academic standards, ever cause any trouble in the Dean's Council?

Al: Yes, I think he was kind of stuffy about that. I don't recall any special situations but it was always, he was, I really feel a number of situations, but I think that was my (?) has some ideas about a stand or something like that and it was tough for him to give. But I found that he did his job professionally and he was just old fashion dignity. He was giving the students, in a sense, as I said platitudes, and friendliness but he was still friendliness with standoffish. I think Bill Everett called him Clarence. But he was, I say, he played the part of a typical dean of the early 20th century.

Allen: You mentioned Bill Everett. Did you know him very well?

Al: I did know him very well. Bill was also a representative on this group, right from the beginning when things were a problem and Bill was, had been around so much that he'd go pretty much with the administration. He was a very kind guy and very warm. Very easy to know and cared very much about students and they cared for him. The faculty cared about him also. He had a southern drawl and he was a very loyal part of the university. He told me, I saw him after he had his first heart attack, he said, "you know they had so many calls for me when I was first sick to ask how I was, they had to get another operator." Well, it could well be true, he was just a popular guy, not in a sense that, again the old fashion sense, he wasn't just a back slapper, he was a sincere guy. He didn't have a sophistication that many of the professors have today, he was just an open sort of fellow that could have been naive in certain ways but was just warm and friendly. I'm not sure that he was the greatest professor in the world, in fact, I'm speaking as a teacher of Biology, because I remember there were, I think he made his impression more as a

human being. He made himself as a teacher of the subject matter. I think that's essentially true. He played a pretty important part of this university.

Allen: I'm a little disturbed that the room in the student center, the Everett Room, the DeSiero Room, I'm not even sure that the plaques are still up.

Al: Bill, I get disturbed about it too. As years go on, people forget.

Allen: I just ran across, along with that, there was a portrait of E. Everett Cortright which was made someplace. I don't know where that is. It suddenly occurred to me, I don't know where that is.

Al: I remember that portrait very well.

Allen: It's not in the Founder's Room

Al: What about the teacher of the year?

Allen: They're stashed away some place in the library. I don't know where.

Al: They are just sentimental, as I am and possibly you are, you feel sorry about that, but that is what happens.

Allen: Speaking of Teacher of the Year. (Tape turned off for a bit). Earl Bigsbee?

Al: I saw Earle a couple of years ago. I see him in Florida now and then. Earle was a quiet guy who was able to get support of faculty and administrators in his quiet style. He didn't seem particularly be out to insult, I think that's why. People always trusted Earle, he had some good ideas for the Jr.College. He was active in the Dean's Council but probably as respected as any. Earle spoke, people listened. They, and he also had a special regard for Henry Littlefield. I spoke to Earle when he was acting president and I said to Earle, "I think you really ought to be president." He said, "Al, I'm really not a president, I'm really not, that's not me." I guess He was like a Mr. Chips. The guy who was, you know, number two but he would not be number one, he would not be president. He was kind of bitter at the end, he felt that Manning did not treat him right. He felt that (?) I think, Remember that we had a student closing the school and I felt as Dean of Students that I had to get going on it and keep people together, and I chose Earle Bigsbee because I just felt that he was in touch with people. He was very bright, not only in regard to education, he knew computers, he knew budgets, he was kind of a gadget man. He was not really a colorful (?) but he actually was a very respected person and I

think there is no question, Earle was a gem, one of the big important figures.

Allen: I saw him last February and got him on tape. He had had some physical problems for a while but both he and Mae were doing very well.

Al: I had seen him the year before that, and will probably see him this year. The problems scared him and he won't come north. One of the service clubs did something big in honor of Earle, but he wouldn't come north. I think he feels a little scared.

Allen: Oh yes, I enjoyed him.

Al: Again I want to say, I think the big thing with Earle was, that everybody seemed to care for him. In other words, he wasn't just an administration man, a faculty man, everybody thought Earle was fine.

Allen: And he did so many different things here, too. Very many things.

Al: He was a very hard worker. As a matter of fact, it mystifies me that he could leave the university and be so satisfied except I know he was counting the days until his retirement.

Allen: Let's go on to some of the other deans. The first dean of business of Dean Boone Tillett. Do you remember him?

Al: Yes, I remember Dean Tillett. He used to actually sleep in his office, so I've been told, I never saw him there, and you know it's funny, I remember (?) about Dean Tillett in a sense that he some very strange things, unorthodox. I don't recall what they were except sleep in the office and I can't say more. I wasn't a dean when he was dean.

Allen: Eaton Read

Al: Eaton Read, that's going to be quoted here and I don't know whether I want to be quoted on this thing.

Allen: If there's anything questionable, I'll check with you.

Al: O.K. Eaton Read enjoyed the role of being dean as much as anyone possibly could. He was actually the elitist and stuffiest. I remember him once I, he called me and I guess I left a message for him to call me. He reminded me that I was Dean #7 or something like that, and he was Dean #2 and the guy that was #3 (?) and even though we were friendly and Eaton was you know he was pleasant but I found that his interest and absorption in regard to words get a little bit boring. It annoyed me. He would come to a dean's meeting and someone would say some-

thing and he would go into a real story about where the word originated. It might be OK from time to time, but he always did this. He pontificated a great deal and at the same time that I'm saying this, he was nice to me. He was like a friend. But he did have one thing that I think was excellent. Although he was Business Dean he had a real knowledge of the liberal arts and therefore when he talked about in the dean's council he did not talk from the standpoint of a person interested primarily in business, he was a man whose overall education (?) A very smart person and but his stuffiness kept him from having close contact with other deans that might want it. He was friendly enough and he was friendly and caring in that sense, but he was, as I say pontificated so much that he was a bit of a bore. that's why I say I might not want it published.

Allen: Fred Ekeblad?

Al: Well Fred was, I liked Fred particularly. We was a guy whom you could argue with about your point of view without personal involvement. He, himself, Fred would take off on some topic and go on and on about it but he was very bright. He was very bright in regard to, on any topic, budgets, to buildings, to the theory of education and so on. I would say he was a very bright guy and he was a natural. He, I found, even though our viewpoints were almost entirely different, he was easy to relate with. Our arguments never became personal. And I'm very fond of Fred.

Allen: Who followed him as Dean?

Al: I think Frank DeLeo.

Allen: Was it Frank DeLeo?

Al: I think

Allen: I think you're right. Frank DeLeo

Al: Frank DeLeo was a personal friend. I thought the faculty, and was a war hero, although he didn't talk about that, had been wounded very seriously, and he always had been, as a faculty member, and assistant dean, people would look to him for help. The dean looked to him for help, he was sharp. And he knew budgets and numbers and administration very, very well. And, but there was something again about him that was very attractive and he was, Frank was, again a fellow who was earthy. He was not a stuffed shirt. He would get real angry at times and it seemed that CBA was being pushed around and would be angry about it, but at the same time he was a fine guy, a very good administrator. Very much respected and cared for by both his fellow deans and the faculty.

Allen: He made a report under Manning's administration about the

financial situation in a report to the Senate, about the financial situation of the university. Do you remember that?

Al: No

Allen: I remember it very well because if we had followed that and Manning had taken those recommendations we wouldn't have been in as much difficulty. We were in difficulty but not as much

Al: I knew he was good at that. He was good at reports, good at negotiating with people. He was a sharp guy.

End of side one of tape #1

Al: I'm trying to think what else he did. He was really Dean when I was. I have a feeling that I knew him well and as a faculty member he didn't have much to do.

Allen: Well, by this time you are in the Cabinet.

Al: That's true, you've got a good memory.

Allen: And

Al: And so Lou and I were on the Dean's Council together.

Allen: O.K. Let's come back to Arts and Science. We had Ropp, who succeeded Ropp? For the moment, I can't think of this

Al: Carl Larson

Allen: Was it Carl Larson at that time?

Al: Carl Larson was in there -

Allen: I thought he came after that. I guess it must have been Lee Miles.

Al: Carl must be right. What happened was Ropp stayed an extra year. Everybody gave Ropp a good bye party and then they asked him to stay an extra year and he stayed to his 66th year and Lee Miles came in. Larson was an ass't. dean, one of the assistant deans under Miles and later on became Dean, that's true.

Allen: O.K. Lee Miles as a dean.

Al: Well Leland Miles as a dean first came on campus, had this charisma, which he still has, I'm sure as president. Talking about a so called cocktail party, he was the kind of guy who went any place socially, you know where Lee is because he's got that kind of a personality. He is articulate, the kind of person who speaks beautifully, speaks beautifully socially, speaks beauti-

fully when he is facing an audience, has, I said charisma, charm and he also has a heck of a lot of ideas. As a dean, I found that there were occasions he would blast off and this is a dean. He would blast off a memo to a student or to me without thinking, impulsive and when I found out what he had done was completely not factual and would have to retract what it was. And things like that. He drew the pistol fast and fired, probably too quickly. I also found as a dean that, the deans were pretty close at times. We went to Atlantic City on university when we used to plan many things for the university and it didn't bother him that he was (?) He was not really a part of the deans group, socially. He just wasn't one of the boys with us. At, speaking of Fred Ekeblad, Don Kern, and so on and so on, not that anybody snubbed him or he snubbed us, it was just the fact that the relationship wasn't quite that close. Also, frankly (?) was on the, he was looking up ahead and he knew very often that practically speaking his line was not with us. Some trustee) or somebody else would have some kind of influence, but I say he was a friendly guy. I liked him.

Allen: Was he an effective dean?

Al: Well I think he was effective dean in the sense that he would start so many programs. He used to hurt Henry. He cost the university a lot of money but he'd get, he had programs going. In a way it was a competition between him and Harold See. And they would conflict back and forth and they would, Harold I think not only encouraged him in regard to programs, but also with regard to spending money. It just bothered Harold so much when he found out that he had given, according to Harold, that Lee had given brief cases to each one of his department chairman every year on a dean's budget and it really, it was a very funny thing. When Miles and See came on the scene, before they came on, everyone was kind of strict about budgets. No one took a trip anyplace else except Lee always traveled first class. Once they came on the scene, they showed us how to spend money. With the money also came a lot of new ideas. I'm confused, as a dean and as a president.

Allen: One of Lee's assistant deans was Bill Walker. Tell us about Bill.

Al: Well, I think it is very obvious that I cannot be objective about Bill because, it is very well known that Bill and I were at opposite sides of the fence. It became very personally, very hostile personal relationship which is too bad, although it didn't start that way. At first we were very friendly and so on and so forth.

Allen: What were you arguing on?

Al: Well for one thing, I felt a lot of Bill's (?) were personal

and sensitive. I think that he sort of saw me, saw him in competition with myself for student affection. That's my interpretation, if that's true or not, could be biased. We were arguinmg about many things. He, some of the things he stood for were I think were in the long run probably pretty good. He would either, he saw student personnel as taking over everything. He would call me and refer to me as Super Dean and I found it was kind of tough was that he would actually have a student who, He was very good at some things, wonderful , superior with some students, do anything for them. Some students also, he would be personal and vindictive anout them. They would walk in the office and ask for a reasonable thing like a chance to come back to the university which they had earned their way back in some way and if he didn't like a student, he was very, very hostile and personally, I didn't get involved in that sense and he also did this. He felt that student personnel, I could see this, this I could be objective about. I was involved in many things that could be changed. For example, student personnel, I was in charge of it, we decided who was going tobe dismissed academically and who wasn't. He objected to that. But he also, he wanted to do was, he wanted to have student personnel practically broken up. And he wanted to have the counseling staff assigned completely to the dean, the academic dean, without the student personnel. In the academic scheme, my feeling was very briefly, maybe become perks of the academic dean. They wouldn' really be able to pursue their profession. I could see being associated with a college but not really working for it. So we had a big todo about that and we had a-. Finally the student council recognized that there was a lot of feeling between Bill and myself and they arranged to have a debate between Walker and me and you wouldn't think that a debate about academic - but actually it attracted many students and they didn't have (?) students (?) student council office, not office. Bill was bright, he was detailed, he was meticulous but he also had a mean, hostile streak and liked very often to humiliate and push people down. And he, if he felt that anybody, he would actually know (?) that other people did not like and he would not make a theoretical matter, he would make it very personal manner in which he would try to tear the person and really push him down and step on his face. He too had some charm. Funny when I speak to you, Bill, how much one forgets. If you had asked this about ten years ago, I would have been good for a theraputic session. I forgot so much. I just remember that this brilliant guy had so much to give but absolutly, so emotionally inconsistant. He was good with many students and a terror with others, and also faculty and administrators just try to rip them apart. Try to push them in a grave.

Allen: He was sometimes referred to in the Arts and Science College as the "hatchet man".

Al: True. I mean he would want to kick people out. He was just

(?) I mean lesser administrators, Jim Southouse, for example.

Allen: Well, we'll come to them later. Now, Miles was succeeded by Larson. Carl Larson.

Al: Carl Larson had been president of a Jr. College and was a competent faculty member who was nice, intelligent, not particularly colorful, in my opinion a dean, but I would say he was solid. He was solid.

Allen: And he was sort of a stop gap until they could find someone else.

Al: I guess he was, I don't know if wanted to stay on in the deanship or not.

Allen: Let's come back to Miles just a minute. I just remembered something else. Why did Miles leave as dean?

Al: He got this offer at Alfred University. He kept on showing people the size of Alfred University and some of the other deans, facts and so on, they got kind of angry at him and , he was saying I'm going to a better institutin than yours.

Allen: This was just about the time we were thinking of getting an acedemic vice president. Was Miles in competition for that?

Al: Well, I'm not sure. I'll tell you a story as I think about that. Littlefield tells a story Well, if you put it down, you've got to ask Henry to say this was so. Herb Cohen wanted Miles to be vice president and Littlefield didn't trust Miles. He was not happy.

Allen: There was a personality conflict and there was also a budget conflict.

Al: There was also this. Quite honestly I can say I like Lee. I've been very close to him, I couldn't trust him. I felt that one thing, one of his problems was (?) and keeping his promises.

Allen: He's kept every promise that was made to me.

Al: I didn't have that experience. What I'm saying is, I understood (?)

Allen: Al right, Mike Karnis.

Al: Mike Karnis was almost like the, who was Mike Karnis? He wasn't, was he after Fletcher or before?

Allen: I've forgotton the exact sequence. I've got to check that out.

Al: I don't know much about Karnis. i felt that he was an emotionally all together sort of guy, but he just kind of drifted by for one year as far as I'm concerned.

Allen: Why did he leave, do you know?

Al: Why did he leave, I felt the faculty were having problems with him. But I didn't particularly care for him. I was neutral about him, I just think he was a neutral part of my life. I felt the other guy, Fletcher.

Allen: Don Fletcher

Al: I thought Fletcher was good. He really had an awful lot on the ball. He was bright, dynamic, programs in mind. relatively young fellow, at times got angry. He was the one who actually didn't want (?) with Christie.

Allen: No, it was just before Christie came in. I beg your pardon, Christie was here.

Al: And Christie died. He tried to reapply again and I guess I think he stopped right there. I think he thought he wasn't getting approved at that time, so he, anyway for some reason, it didn't go through. But I felt when Fletcher, was a very strong character, lot of ideas and had a great potential for leadership. Used to play poker with him, he was one of our poker players. The Dean, I think Fred Ekeblad started it, and Fletcher. There was Don Kern and Littlefield and Harold See. We used to play once a month, not much of a poker player but it was a nice way to kind of get together. (?)

Allen: What people would seemed to be quite surprised when they found he had not really left San Jose State .

Al: I didn't know that.

Allen: He was on a leave of absence. I taped him on his last night in town incidentally. The only time I taped anybody during that time. I knew Don fairly well. I was quite friendly with him. We enjoyed each other and-

Al: He was cynical but he was also, he had a strength, he would argue and he argued with courage, but not very aggressively about something. I thought Don was o.k.

Allen: And then he was succeeded by Al Schmidt.

Al: Well Al is somebody whom I really didn't much contact with as Dean. I(?) I think he's a very decent guy, scholarly. I like his ideas, he's a fine human being. But if he had no success, if

he had limited success as a dean, I don't know what he did. As a matter of fact, he was too nice a guy. Certainly, he had the reputation as a scholar and of course he went from dean to vice president (?)

Allen: I knew Al quite well and we used to talk quite a bit. And he was my chairman. Now when he asked my advice about becoming dean and I told him he was too nice a guy to be a dean. And then we had some talks afterwards, particularly, when he was running into problems, and how was he as Vice President?

Al: Well, when he was vice president I was back in teaching so I guess I don't know. Again I can't judge (?) I just thought he was a fine person. It's funny when you asked me about this people, I am truly embarrassed. I'm not giving specifics why, it just a kind of gut feeling.

Allen: That's alright, where necessary, we'll dig out the specifics. Alright, let's go back to the college of Nursing. We haven't done that, the first nursing dean was Dean Jayne.

Al: She was tremendous. Martha was tremendous. She had the vision, she was gutsy, she knew her figures and her facts and she knew plans and grades. She was able to say no to Littlefield when everybody else thought she shouldn't. She was an interesting character who really cared for students with all her (?) as such that they would have to (?) And people saw in her a kind of tough woman. Well she was tough but she was also a very kind and very practical. She put the College of Nursing on its feet and nursed it along but she, and, I think she was one real effective dean. (?)

Allen: Where she living now?

Al: I believe in North Carolina. She was living in Florida but she (?) her companion, the one she lived with while she was in Milford, went down south.

Allen: Do you know whereabouts in North Carolina?

Al: I have the address at home and will send it to you.

Allen: I have got to go south to tape Don Kern this fall and Harold See. They are both in the Carolinas and I will get her at the same time.

Allen: Then Mary Topalis was next. Come to think about it, Nursing has only had three deans.

Al: That's very true.

Allen: That's unusual. Mary Topalis?

Al: She was an energetic ball of fire, I recall giving a speech to one of the social clubs, and she was there and I made some mention about nurses and she interpreted that as putting down nurses, but I felt she was good. I liked Mary and I thought she had a lot of ideas and (?) she didn't have the wrong terms to (?) like Martha Jayne did but perhaps to some extent maturity, but she was a good one.

Allen: And she left to become dean at Fairfield, didn't she?

Al: No. Mary left and went out to California. Mary actually had an illness which might have been terminal. Very serious, and she was better off out in California. I knew she was an effective dean but I really find myself just speaking in generalities.

Allen: Let's go on to Education, the College of Education. The first dean there was Trippensee.

Al: Well Trippensee was a, he, as a person was a, had a great need for affection. He needed approval and on the other hand he'd get things that were not approved of. He was one who gave his colleagues at other schools, jobs as part time teachers. Which is OK, but it was almost as if he would take care of them. At the time I was consistent with people. I was very close to him, as a matter of fact he was a good friend, but during his last years he was almost incapable, he didn't seem to really know what was going on. In the last year or so. Maybe he was getting sick or something. He was a politician in a sense (?) contacts with different people and made sure they liked him, he was but he also never did one thing that stands out in my mind. There was a student, I don't remember the details of the case, that had done something a couple of times that was so wrong that they should not have been allowed to go on and teach, there is no question about that, but (?) you have to agree with him. I remember Art saying, "well, I'm going to keep this guy in school." Well, the thing was that it wasn't a question of whether he was rational or not rational, it was just the fact that he was going to do it, and he, as I said, he was a loveable guy. He would, talking about not reaching a person's goal, (?) but I also feel he wasn't very educated. In other words, he was not that much of an administrator. (?)

Allen: He was succeeded by Lovell, right.

Al: Lovell, yes. I differ about Lovell. I liked Lovell. Lovell, was not a charismatic guy, warm southern type. He would sit back and talk with you. He had a lot of philosophical ideas about education (?) and he was a person who I actually when I got this committee together, dealing with students, frankly I went to Lovell. Lovell showed at that time that he had some good ideas because we actually called them revolutionaries. and he had

charisma as I say he had this warmth. but I would just say that in regard to being a real noble guy who, being 6 ft 4, he was charming and he spoke so well and was so kind and so on. He was probably a dreamer. Yet we have to have the dreamers.

Allen: Do you recall what the Lovell resolution was all about?

Al: Oh, yes. Lovell resolution was that students would be able to stop classes and get their grades as of the date they stopped classes by the time of this confrontation. If those students that wished to go with classes could do that, they would get grades that way. That was a sensitive (?) repercussions against students (?) and students were allowed to, let's see, you know repercussions (?), that is the essence of it.

Allen: You know the correlary to the Lovell resolution, don't you?

Al: Yes, I know, The Allen Resolution.

Allen: What was the Allen resolution?

Al: (?) It involved students that could not attend classes if they caused any disruption, am I right about that?

Allen: No quite. I've forgotten the exact wording of it myself, I haven't looked it up in such a long time, but it dealt with the right of faculty to speak without being disrupted and students do not have the right to disrupt classes.

Al: I'll tell you, it was a very interesting thing. (?) just to spend two minutes on it. I rode the crest when we got together and spoke to the faculty and the Lovell Resolution passed. (?) The next day Lovell was miserable, he said we are right in the middle of hostility, as faculty and administrators, we should have done this, this is bad and so on and so forth. I still thought it was a good move. That's when Bill Walker gave me a hard time too. I am not sure whether that was the cause or not. Anyway, that was probably, in my history at the University of Bridgeport, that particular year was my most important year.

Allen: It was an extremely difficult year. Charlie Stokes was in here the other day and was commenting on that, where a student, one of the leaders was standing aside and said to him and said, "I hope this doesn't hurt the university because I love this place." And there was this ambivalence on the part of many many people wanting to do something and yet not wanting to hurt the university or even recognizing the -

Al: I certainly wouldn't want to hurt the university. Everybody's motive were good, it was a question of saving the University. Whether it was the right means or not is still

debatable point, I think I think most people involved didn't want to hurt the university.

Allen: Alright, we'll come back to parts of this later on, Al. Curtis Ramsey?

Al: In my eyes or Harold See's eyes? Curtis Ramsey, couldn't be through Harold See's eyes because Ramsey was a, you know, I don't have a lot to remember about Curtis Ramsey. He was a dynamic guy, he tossed out ideas. He kind of seemed to be like a fellow who was running on the track and never stops. He, to be honest with you, Bill, I don't recall too much about him.

Allen: Harold See?

Al: Harold See had terrific ideas, was able to project plans, get money, and understand budgets. He just loved to spend hours. Come in early, 7:00 in the morning and work out budgets and draw projects or proposals. He was a guy, constantly though, who got so many things done. He was earthy and also very(?) He had one big problem. He never could keep a secret. If you ever had anything, and you didn't want anybody to know about it, you wouldn't tell it to Harold. If you wanted it to get around, you'd tell it to Harold, he could not keep his mouth shut, he used to, you'd talk with him and we used to very frankly, what tidbits were that he would pass along. He also could not stand anybody who was better than he was. Therefore, he didn't like Miles, he didn't like Christie. It was o.k. for the president, but anybody on his plane, God help them. And I remember he got along very very well but the months that he was acting president, Littlefield was out of town, I made a decision that I thought I had to make as Dean of Students. I can remember how furious he was because he was not given the kind of recognition that he should have. Recognition to Harold was very very important and as I said, I would never want to be an enemy of Harold See. (?) and make it very difficult. He also had in his earthy way, a real rapport with his faculty. And if they weren't any good, he would make it so uncomfortable that they would leave. He too, was a colorful person. He knew how to spend money, he made tremendous demands, he was not satisfied about things but he did bring) the College of Education to a very(?) and he left before the College of Education went down hill. I liked his warmth, I liked his(?) Harold was exposed. Harold was exposed, Harold was no secret, but he was also a gutsy guy and If he felt something was right, he fought to the very end.

Allen: It's been said that among the deans at that time, both Miles and See wanted to be president.

Al: There's no question about that. In fact later on after Miles was up at Alfred and I'd put up with See for some time because I felt this guy was not dynamic but strong. I admit that

there were certain problems where we clashed but every president clashes with some people in doing their job. Oh yes, (?)

Allen: And he subsequently became vice president of institutional research. That was a new position, wasn't it? Why was it created?

Al: I don't know.

Allen: The, I was about to tell a story which doesn't belong in here. The, I've forgotten who followed See as Dean of Education.

Al: Leo Mann.

Allen: It was a short time.

Al: Leo was a competent guy, he did his job. Nice to work with as far as I was concerned. I guess they didn't see him as the charismatic leader with a lot of ideas so he was acting dean for one year, but he was dean.

Allen: O.K. let's take a little, we've hit all the colleges so far, haven't we, and all the deans, the academic deans.

Al: Yes. We haven't hit a very important dean and that was Frank Hennessey.

Allen: Oh yes, yes, thank you. Jr. College.

Al: Of the Jr. College. Frank Hennessey of the Jr. College. I was very close with Frank. Frank was somewhat like Harold See (?) He was, find the cause of injustice a lot, justice was always to him. He was a guy who wanted things done correctly, bright, had ideas, a very powerful, dynamic leader and had the guts to oppose, for example, I remember, it was really Frank that did this while I was on his side when and he had Carrier (?) taking over (?) it was Frank who I think gave leadership to the fact of opposing Carrier. I think there was a resolution sent to the Board of Trustees. The idea was that he had some question about Carrier's leadership and so Frank was a fighter, Frank was one of these guys, God help you if you were not his side. He was strong, dynamic, could use figures and was ambitious and could not sit back. He always had things really going and was effective enough, he may have minor strength and was respected by the faculty. He was succeeded by Sharon Klebe.

Allen: Sharon as a Dean?

Al: Well, Sharon was actually working for Student Personnel at one time as a residence hall counselor. As a graduate student. She was a lovely person and (?) It amazed me how people who are so nice have gotten so far. Getting up to be Vice President at

one time. She just seemed to play it straight, has ideas, she was decent and does her job well, effectively and efficiently and I just think Sharon is a terrific person.

Allen: O.K. Bob Christie?

Al: Bob Christie had all kinds of ideas. He was, he couldn't understand the kind of problems were giving him, particularly Harold See. Don Kern and I were, like Christie, we felt he was decent with us and we would talk about it, but the academic deans tried to chew him up. I don't really remember (?) that Harold See cannot see the vice president above him. And about that time he was also, I think Harold was also a vice president and he didn't get the vice president for academic dean, I don't know this to be a fact, but he spoke to Henry about one of the other vice presidencies instead. But Christie was very good. He wanted to move to the University forward and I remember before, a few days before Christie went off on his fatal mission, vacation. whatever you want to call it. I was sitting next to his wife, Sally, who was a very nice person (?) so I felt I was in Christie's corner and I tried to do something, for some reason the other deans -

Allen: Was that perhaps because they say him as the heir apparent to Littlefield?

Al: I think that Harold just sort of figured it might be a threat to himself and Harold particularly didn't want (?) I want to say this to you, Bill, that (?) I don't even know Harold's side, I'm giving you a kind of gut feeling, like I was here to make a judgement so. I just found him to be a nice guy who was trying to do a job. He worked very hard and somehow he did not make it with the academic deans.

Allen: Al, we're almost at the end of the side of this tape and it's almost time to break for lunch.

End of tape.

Side three of interview with Al Wolff, Sept. 12, 1985

Allen: In the process, we've recongnized that we've completely ignored the Deans of Engineering. Now the first dean, was the first Dean Willard Berggren?

AL: No, there was a director before him. I wish I could remember, but he was a kind of "dodo" type of guy, very difficult to get along with. Kind of a young fellow and, at that time, I forgot his name. He was the one who should get credit cause he actually was the founder of the school as far as I know.

Allen: Yes, I have his name and a picture of the ground breaking and so forth.

AL: OK but as I say, he was not too pleasant a guy, but he was, he got it started and then Will Berggren came in. And Will Berggren was a tough fellow. He was sometimes taciturn, in other words (?) in regards to his personal relationships (?) very definate, very strong and sometimes irritable. And he was willing to learn, and I say Will was a fellow who, well I found no (?). I also found him independent, and I guess the big thing was that he wasn't at ease with himself. (?)

ALLEN: And he was subsequently Vice President for -

AL: He never became Vice President. He switched from there, I forget what title he had. He retained the title of Dean but then became Vice President. He used to be research oriented.

ALLEN: An then followed by Frank Fitchen.

AL: I didn't know Frank Fitchen awfully well, except he had a good sense of humor.

ALLEN: In looking at all the deans, we have had quite a turnover in Arts and Science and Business and Education. Relative stability in Engineering and very stable in Nursing. How do you account for such instability?

AL: Of course Nursing became part of the College of Health Sciences, so Nursing really isn't any more, and so I think in regard to the College of Nursing, I think it was primarily the old timers who did it. Martha Jayne founded it and stayed for many years, she was followed ny Mary Topalis who only stayed a short time and then there was Elsa Brown.

ALLEN: Elsa Lusebrink Brown.

AL: She was quite an outstanding person, Very vital, full of

ideas and her relationships were terrific, and she was, actually I think she had been a student here.

ALLEN: Yes, one of the early students.

AL: Then you had Alison Bailey, one of the old timers. She stayed here for a good many years, so she is going to stay here and have her career. She was dean until it became part of the College of Health Sciences and it just so happens that Joe Nechasek is one of the few Deans who have stayed on. Among the recent deans. I think that's more of a coincidence. Funny, I just remembered about 10 years back, Joe being one of the new deans and now I guess he is probably the senior dean. What's happened is that in some colleges there have been some changes and switching around. I think a dean, many years ago would stay on and be dean for maybe 25 years. He would get it maybe when he was 40 years old and stay on then retire. Now the thing is that people feel that they have more than 10 years it is time for a change. And so now in more recent years you have change taking place.

ALLEN: Would anything have to do with their capabilities?

AL: Well, you get a good point, it might well be. I find that what happens too, is the top administration changes. The top administrator, a new person wants a change and may not be satisfied. Changes in the top administration, vice presidents, including the president, I think it also is that people stay on in the dean's job not as long as they did before.

ALLEN: OK. Let's move on to someone else we've mentioned previously, one of your favorite characters, Warren Carrier.

AL: Warren Carrier was a very bright person who was, I would say, an author, knew his English, could teach it very well, He actually had a real knack for numbers, figures and so on, but he was really a very disagreeable guy and he was a very hostile person and he was very autocratic individual and he was also power hungry. He came in, and right away there were going to be a lot of changes, and so what he did was, he tried to take over here, for example (?) and he really felt, I always felt about him that he wanted power, he really wanted to run the place. He had a lust to be president, which eventually I think he became a president. Be he was gruff, and I felt at times, ruthless, (?) but he, people just didn't feel comfortable with him. They didn't trust him, they felt he was pushing his ideas down their neck and that he didn't consult. He did what he wanted to and he was always vying for power, his own way. I really didn't have any use for him. I thought that what would happen was as some important people came on the campus and made a lot of changes, cause destruction, then in a few years, boom, he flew and people kind of had to settle down. There were some good things he had done, but there had to be a lot of fixing up of the damage he had done.

ALLEN: Did you ever, I think we referred to this at lunch, ever get the impression that a lot new people coming in had a disregard for what had been happening for the old people and wanted to make changes to make their mark?

AL: Yes, I don't know a cause for it, could have been actually, a stereotype, the old people, been around too long, didn't have any good ideas, or that they were a threat. What ever it was, what happened was that maybe a number of older people who actually lost their jobs or were pushed down, or disregarded. I felt that way very strongly. I know in my own case, I said to myself, Hey I wasn't to leave my job administratively, while things were still going well. But I found that so many people whom I cared about were being pushed out, and, you know again, I'm trying to be fair about this, I'm trying to be objective. I suppose I am sentimental, friends of mine and people who have tried their best, so I want to keep them on. I guess what may have happened in some situations, is that they were looking for other kinds of things, for example, I thought that Don Kern's work in admissions was outstanding. I would like to see him stay on forever and ever. But maybe Don said, Look I'm not a marketing man, so what happened was, the job that Don held as dean of admissions and educator may not have been changed to a person who knew how to compete in the market. It had to be a person who was really dynamic in marketing, so anyway people like Don got pushed out. Sometimes it may have been that the so called old timers had lost their efficiency, or had been efficient in an age when they could be good, but the age changed because of computers, because of whatever. I must say that I have found myself sentimentally, and very much involved with a great number of people who were the so called old timers who had to leave the University of Bridgeport, or who were demoted or who were switched, in my opinion, pushed around. I became rather upset about it and yet I knew that at times I had to admit that there was some basis to some of their removals. Some of them had not been doing the job that they should have done.

ALLEN: Alright, I know you want to talk about Don Kern.

AL: Well, I want to speak about Don, because I guess Don and I were not only personal friends, Don came on the scene in 1948 when Jay Fish was then Dean, hired a career counsellor in education. Don came in that way, and he's the guy who (?) he's a bright fellow, knew mathematics, but actually could do well on statistics. He did his job faithfully, Don always steered clear of conflicts, he never liked them. He admitted this freely. But he was known as a good fellow who was very solid and I would say very much respected on campus. I think that was true of his entire career. We were very close. And Don was actually called (?) very well. I remember a case when he (?) and I said, Don, this fellow here, no matter what he says, you stick by it, he

should not be coming back to the University, his grades are much too low, he was not a good worker, say bye now. I saw a student later on (?) And I recall we worked well together and then what happened was that Fran Dolan (Male) became ill and they needed someone to take his place. Don moved in there. And Don again was in a good position, the University was growing, more and more people were coming in. The pressure on Don was not to get more students, but the thing was that Don had to say no to many students and every faculty member practically, people had relatives, they always tried to put pressure on Don to get somebody in the University. And Don was particularly afraid of Jim Halsey taking some European trip where he would find this student and that student and he would want both a scholarship for them and admissions to the University, and Don was deluged with people who said that Dr. Halsey had promised they could come to the University of Bridgeport. It almost drove him crazy. And I am sure Don had a keen sense of humor. He used to grin like a Cheshire cat when he told a joke, which he would quite frequently. He was a low pressure guy, low key guy. He worked very, very hard and he was just the kind of person who worked harder than any I know of. Very effective Dean of Admissions. As a matter of fact, Don did his job, I'm sure he wanted to get ahead but he was never as interested in titles as I was. I fought hard for the deanship. I thought Actually (?) and so I spoke up and told Jim Halsey about it and Jim, who spoke to Henry Littlefield and then it went to the Board of Trustees, and Henry said OK, Al gets to be Dean of Student Personnel (?) then Don becomes Dean of Admissions. We both actually got it in together. We were the first two new deans to actually break through and there was not another changes for at least 5 years. They had, in those days, when a new Dean came in, they had an historic welcoming lunch for us. It was really very, very nice. We felt very, very good. We felt very important. Don and I worked together closely over the years and we could have been competitors, we never were, I think we reinforced the other and helped out very much (?) a great help for me. I didn't, we had the so called troubles in the 60s and 70s, I had to call upon certain people to help out such as Bigsbee or Lovell, other administrators, Don said, Look, (?) This kind of confrontation is understandable. (?) Myself I didn't have any choice. I think the thing about Don was that he was always very decent, he was not a person to (?) he was a very loyal, worked hard all his life. He wasn't a spectacular, charismatic figure. Yet he had something about him that everybody liked. He wasn't flashy. I think often, he somehow controlled his destiny. Don, wasn't going to continue on as Dean of Admissions, saw an Ad in the Chronicle, The University was looking for a Dean of Admissions. And Don was hurt. He never said much about that. He, the only thing I should say is that he was absolutely (?). He had a kidding sense of humor. There was never a mean thing about him. He was respected very much by other deans of admission. He had status. (?)

ALLEN: You say he was forced out and saw that they were looking for - what time was that?

AL: That was just before, I'm trying to think, I would say it was approximately 1975. I would have to ckeck. I left in January 1975, I think -

ALLEN: That was right after Lee came?

AL: It was after Lee came.

ALLEN: Alright, I remember very often, being asked over for a brown bag lunch with you and Don, Sometimes we'd have an agenda, sometimes, we didn't. Sometimes we just enjoyed lunch and the banter that went along with it. Speaking of not liking confrontations, I remmebr a story, I think Jerry Davis tells the story, about some parents whose child was not admitted, appeared in the outer office and Don went out the window and disappeared.

AL: That's a funny story. As I mention in my own case, Don (?) he may not like it, the thing was that he did not choke. I don't know if it happened or not.

ALLEN: OK, Coming back to other parts of the administration, Al Diem?

AL: Well, I had trouble with Al Diem, Al Diem came in, attractive guy, spoke very well, students liked him immediately, and Al was a bit pompous, he would tell about his great achievements at Penn State, and I think also I found that he was kind of, in my viewpoint, rigid in regard to students. (?) He would immediately call me up as if I were aboslutely responsible and had to do it right away. And yet I found that he, although he liked students and students liked him, no question about that, that his ideas about working with students in the late 60s and early 70s, was that if I had done as he said, I would have been probably tarred and featherd myuself. As time went on, I the hostility, the tension that Al and I had between us kind of dissipated. We became very, very friendly. I, due to the respect the fact that he worked hard, although he talked a great deal, somehow I think it interfered with his efficiency, he would get things done, he did have a heart, and I thought he was an effective vice president. I thought he was a decent guy. As I say he was a little pompous, but at the same time, he was also a warm guy, he was a person. I think most people liked him and respected him.

ALLEN: Alright, I'm goimng to move back and pick up aa couple of other people. Chauncey Fish? There was a time, you know when people went over to Howland Hall to the ZOO.

AL: Always decent and in general, you know (?) unfortunately he was so much of a company man that he forgot the strudent in the

process. The students realized that. Like for example, they would find out that not enough people would be, say taking Biology, He'd say, "Push Biology, get people in the course". Which, you know (?) and he, trying to think clearly, if Jay, he was known as Jay Fish, and that he, the students felt somehow, I'm trying to say why, but they knew he was not on their side, that he was, like I said before, that he really wasn't with the times, And he was also very management. He would, again I'm trying to think how, let me give you an example of that. He would talk about ideas, but unlike Jim Halsey, he was absolutely unrealistic at any time. And He, somehow, although (?) and its funny, he was such an important person in my life, yet when I think back on him, I get sort of mixed feelings. Felling of a very decent guy who was very good to me, On the other hand, somehow, the guy who was almost off on another cloud, another planet. One of the biggest problems was that he just didn't get along with students.

ALLE|N: Why did he leave?

AL: Well, it is an interesting thing, it is kind of sad, I have to go back to the fact that he went into Education, I remember afterwards, he came back to the University, he was told by either Littlefield or Halsey, that I was going to stay on as Director of Student Personnel. But Fish was not going to be there. And Fish was going to go away, he was being pushed on to full time Education. I think I remember, it affected me so much. the impression was that they were uncomfortable with Fish. Guess thaey were uncomforable that he wasn't liked by the students, they weren't sure, and also they were trying to economize. How this would economise, I don't know. But anyway he went into Education. He went to see me and said now see if you can make a switch with me. And that I would go to Education. I said NO. (?) competition. I had his job. He never resented it. I guess what I am saying is that, and Littlefield could tell you more directly, probably has, I just felt they didn't have confidence in him. They had to have a man in charge of students that could get along with students. He couldn't do it. I think also that I feel in his behaviour, (?)

ALLEN: Jim Southouse?

AL: (Some mumbling on fish) Somehow he ruined the relationships, and he was supposed to be an example of good human relationships.

ALLEN: OK. Jim Southouse?

AL: Well, it was kind of exciting to see Jim rise to the Director of the evening Division. Being a student, then as Director, being worshiped and loved by so many because of his real involvement protecting these students, to get them their rights. They

really cared about Jim, no question about it, because they saw him as guidance for the things they needed. Jim was hot tempered, he would lash out at even the students, but mostly at other administrators. He would lose control of his temper, get very angry. He also had a good wit, really had a nice warmth, and I used to remember him as being kind of a father of the Evening Division, Adult Education of the University of Bridgeport. Afterwards, I heard that he had not been able to do his job. This is something that I don't know about. I know Jim as a gentleman who had done so much - who had started a fraternity about (?) PHT. Putting Hubby Through.

ALLEN: Manning?

AL: Manning is (?) Manning was always an affable guy, very bright, no drive, but a good sense of humor, and but he could never make a decision. I used to call, I used to have things, all he had to say was yes or No, mostly I wanted him to say Yes, And I would call up Chloe, I would call her up not one time but 15 times over a period of two weeks, because I had to have, it had to be done, and she got embarrassed (?) He would just never come to a decision. What would happen also is this - he would be working on something, whereby he would say to me, the students can not have Georgetown Hall. I said, That's too bad but that's the way its going to be. So I thought badly about that, but I had to present his views. The all of a sudden without telling me, he announced to the students that he had granted the student's request for Georgetown Hall. Made me look like a dam ass. So he was friendly with studetns, and he was a real neat guy personally. Kind of droll, in the sense of easy going, and so on, but the papers would pile high. The decisions were not made and much to our regret, that led to the Troika. Impossible. To work for such a group.

ALLEN: OK,

AL: Something else I said to the students, he also entertained students, very affable, no question about it. Probably among the students the most popular President I've seen.

ALLEN: John Cox?

AL: I miss John. John was a student leader here. I, John was president of the student Council (?) he was a person who was likeed and respected John as much as any one I came across. He had charisma, a handsome guy, with white hair, and that, John and I had many talks together. I had, I found, that with John, (?) John was talking about the fact that things weren't going so good, he felt he really wasn't that close, he wasn't so keen on what Miles was doing generally. He talked about actually, eventually setting up his own business. He, I haven't talked about John, I'm sort of skipping around here, I would find this with

John, John always had time for me, even when he was Vice President, I was going by, he'd say come on in and sit. We would talk 25 minutes or half an hour. He found time for me. He also could get indignant, he could get angry, at people or other administrators, He, there was something so very likable about John. Certainly was loyal to the University of Bridgeport. No question about that.

ALLEN: John had the ability to listen.

AL: I think that's a good point.

ALLE|N: Everyone he found time for, and everyone loved him for listening. John, perhaps.

AL: You almost felt that you were some one special.

ALLEN: Always, and every one you talk to about John, has this to say about John, He listened to me, he had time for me. Just what you said. And you find many disparate people talking to him. Both sides, people would be in an argument with each other, but both sides would be talking to John. And John helped to iron out many things this way, because he was aware of the feelings involved and some of the facts involved.

AL: When for example, Al Dickason (?) he kept Bud Harris on the job, probably long after he should have. Bud was a hell of a nice guy.(?) But John, time and time backed up these fellows. He would fight for them. When you talk about a lot of the older people being let go and moved around, it was almost always over John's dead body. He would fight for them. (?) Fightinmg for his friends and being loyal to his friends and this again I want to use the word (?) somehow the students, alumni, so many people, he was a very popular person. people really cared for John. He always attractd people to him. He also was very personal, and touched their hearts, I think when you talk about the practice, I think he was also willing to give some self exposure, talk about himself. What were his goals. He wanted to set up his own business, He didn't want to stay on a vice president.

ALLEN: I think John had the ability to make people feel that he was their best friend.

AL: How true. He came through as sincere. We wasn't jollyng anybody up, we shouldn't feel that way.

ALLEN: I think that helps to explain the sense of loss that everyone felt when he died so suddenly.

AL: I think he may have had a few enemies but I don't know whoi they were. I think John was some very, very special. I always

thought about John, too, John was an alcoholic. He could go, never look bad, he had a job where there was a lot of drinking, but he drank soda. He had a lot of guts. Lot of courage.

ALLEN: He also became diabetic.

AL: I didn't know that.

ALLEN: The Trioka.

AL: Let me say one more thing. John even as a student leader, he was an aggressive student leader, but he was a (?).

ALLEN: As a matter of fact, I remember a faculty meeting took up a considerable period of time about John when he was a student leader. Everyone was worried about his grades because he was so active in student affairs and-

End of side 3.

Side 4 was labeled questionable and nothing came out,

Side 5.

AL: When the University of Bridgeport, the JCC back in 1946 and 47, there were a few foreign students. Nobody paid any particular attention to foreign students. We had some from South America. We and, But they were very few and far between and they came here and fitted in, in fact when we had a foreign student come here and he didn't fit in, there wasn't any special attention given to him. He needs were not met, in that sense. During my Deanship days, I recognized the need for special attention, Particularly also since there was a lot of work involved with paper work. So I'm trying to think of the first Foreign Student advisor, I remember this much that Bill Wright, back in about 1956, among his jobs, Director of Student Activities, and Foreign advisor. I think Bill was the first Foreign Student Advisor. That was part of his job. We made no special pitch for getting in the foreign students, except that Jim Halsey would kind of pick up on it in his travels and Don Kern would feel very upset about it because it was too much work for him. Then later on, as the University got bigger and we got more foreign students, we had full time foreign students like Joe (?) and John Sopchack. These people worked full time.

ALLE|N: Sal Matropole too.

AL: Sal mixed it up with something else. Sal, trying to think how Sal got in that, we must have been cutting down at that point. OK, as we had to cut down, when for example, Lee would ask me where to cut, I used to combine jobs, and things like that. So, we went from full time down to part time.

ALLEN: As our foreign students were increasing?

AL: Yes, yes. We were beginning the so called budget crunch. And the dean is also, I want to give the new dean a lot of credit. He was very interested in foreign students, he recognized that they were being classes and professors who had no use for them (?) objective tests and things like that and there was not enough attention given to curriculum but with regard to their food, needs, the kind of concerns they had and she was really given credit as a foreign student advisor but she was saying let's get the whole faculty and people involved in doing more and so she formed, with Halsey approval, a foreign student committee.

Allen: The foreign student advisory committee

Al: The international advisory committee and you would have people come down, experts in foreign students, to speak to the committee, to speak to the university and this was trying to improve the quality of life of the foreign students and the quality of education. This particular committee, as I said, would get involved with things like this, we would have in mind, I don't know whether it was public or not, certain faculty members who were not good with foreign students and certain faculty members who were (?) We would have special programs for foreign students. This committee started English as a foreign language but at least two of the foreign students knew this. (?) And as I said Marie Jaeger was not only (?) but she was the chairperson, she started this and deserves all the credit. Then what happened was also, the question was (?)

Allen: Well, I was aiming a further question which we can move to. Why did Jim Halsey bring foreign students here from his travels?

Al: Well, I think that Jim enjoyed traveling. Jim traveled in the sense that he was the the big shot of education. He didn't travel like someone does on like \$25.00 a day but on \$5.00 a day and he would meet important people on his travels which he enjoyed. He didn't just travel. His idea of traveling was fun, not just to sightsee but to also be entertained, (?) and in doing that I think he wanted (?) and I think at first it was a guy being nice. I've got a student I want to come to the Univ. of Bridgeport, you're the Chancellor, or President, how about it? So sure, we'll fix this thing up but he didn't talk about admissions standards. Wherever he went, it was just like that. He just liked to travel, it was a way of life. And then the first of September, the first thing, he would have the deans in and he (?) In the meantime Don would cringe because he knew there were going to be a lot of people. Then of course there was the Shastri scholarship. That was a big start in getting foreign students.

Halsey also felt that we were having so much of a success with foreign students (?) Then we had this whole series of scholarships, various countries for graduate students. They have a choice of making it. He felt that with undergraduates, there was too much attrition. We were wasting our money.

Allen: As I recall you, over the years, when I was a faculty member, one of your big points was student advising. Problems, frustrations, successes?

Al: Well, the concept that I had at that time was a kind of , well many things, first was, I looked at advising from not only the standpoint of academic advising, but also in regard to being very cognizant of students feelings, problems and whatever happened, and so on, and the concept which I had was that, I wanted to get the entire faculty, if possible, it wasn't always possible, to be student minded, to show concern not only for the students academic achievement but also for him as a person and their study habits, their special problems that they might have that they might want to talk about and so the concept was to get the faculty involved, so you had a university that was not just academic minded for the student but to mixed very much with students. A basic idea of having faculty and a certain amount of money to have studentss in their homes. I also felt that the biggest problems were with the freshman, that's where the most attrition was, that's where the biggest adjustments to college life were. So you selected those people who were good as students in that sense, and we asked them to be student advisors. This involved extra work, you couldn't really reward them enough for the extra work, but you gave them some kind of recognition (?) which involved having to go through a service program with certain basic techniques in mind (?) but I must say in the first place the faculty advisors were picked. I found the freshman advisors, at least in the beginning, were good people, they really cared about students like yourself, Bill Protheroe , a bunch of others (?) but they really cared and instead of coming into the university and getting somebody who was, not necessarily a great scholar, not that a freshman advisor couldn't be a scholar, but a scholar interested only in research. These students would be with somebody that really cared about them and their concerns. You know its hard to judge a program, I think in the most part that happened (?) You did avoid having certain people, who very honestly could care less about student's personal problems and the like, they just weren't doing it in the beginning. And then what happened as time went on other people came into advising. I think the \$100 was taken away and the recognition was taken away, didn't mean quite as much. While I think it waas important, I think it kind of lost its inner excitement. I felt in the beginning that , I was so proud of the program, I used to go down to other colleges and talk about it, in regard to our position,(?) but I think some of the faculty didn't like the kind of people (?)

Allen: I think we should note that at that time, our annual increment was in the vicinity of \$150 - \$200, so this was really worth something.

Al: I still feel very strong about the type of proam (?) and I am amazed that there is not very much opposition to it at the time. There were those who liked the students anyway.

Allen: Student advising throughout my whole time here has been recognized as a problem. It still is. How do you account for this being a problem?

Al: I think we can speak on the one hand about, in the first place I feel badly (?) Faculty members feel that they don't have the type of life, they are busy, they are in research, they want to teach, and they don't want to take the time that advising takes up. You aren't given much compensation for it. Some of them find it just difficult, they go into teaching in a university for other reasons than actually being with students. I think that is a basic thing. You are not around your offices. Now in recent years particularly, I don't hear much about good advising, (?). And secondarily how well you teach. Advising is very rarely mentioned. I think chairmen of personnel committees know this. (?) you know it is like where you are getting credit and reward you do it well. If you are going to get promoted as an advisor, (?).

Allen: Dealing with students, I'm sure that there are some joys and frustrations in regards to both your job and students and I'd like you to reminisce about some of these, Joys, frustrations and students, individually.

Al: I hope I can do that justice. I would say that the joys that I have had have really been intimate with students(?), I've been there when students, their father had died, their mother had died, (?) I find that I have been there when the student had been dismissed from the university academically, that's sad. (?) So I just want to say as I look back upon it I feel that I(?) students, there are meaningful moments in life (?) very difficult situations you share together. I think as a job of counselor, and I did, had been there a little bit for his own needs.(?) I think there is some satisfaction in being (?) about that. The very fact that people said (?) that I have helped many people, and in helping them I have helped myself in the sense that I have felt a closeness.(?) And I've had some funny experiences. When I used to take charge of attendance and a student would be out of the class if there were one more absence, he had a flat tire and tried to prove to me that he had a flat tire.(?) I guess, who was it, I guess Jerry Davis, I went to student retreats, weekends, and I found I got very close, around a big circle, (?) I'd say "I'm 'Spider' Wolff" (?) I used to get a

kind of a kick out of the fact that, you can sit around together and talk, (?) Its like, for example, when the students were marching on Waldemere Hall, (?) The students said, OK AL, we are not after you, you don't have to worry about a thing. A couple of things like that kind of warmed my heart. (?) What were some of the crazy things? I will go home tonight and think of them. They really did some beautiful things. I may think of them later one. It wasn't just the good part, it was the tough part. Well tough parts were in the first place, they really had some real problems, although I really enjoyed helping them, dismissing a student and he had tried his hardest. (?) That sure hurt. It sure hurt that we were involved in a disciplinary situation.

Allen: I remember being on the Ethics and Discipline Council many, many sessions with you. And I recall some of the first drug cases that came up.

Al: Yes, that's a time when I was hurt also. I was extra tough on drugs, at least marijuana and (?) we were tough on drugs in regard to the dismissal of students and I think we should in regard to the real hard drugs. We were tough on gals, for example, there was a girl who stayed overnight with a fellow and the girl got kicked out for a semester but nothing happened to the fellow. I think there was an inconsistency. It was all wrong. You do it for both. To hell with this double standard thing. We had a double standard. Other things, when I think back, are kind of rough. I think I was uncomfortable to see mob action in the days of -

Allen: Well, let's talk a little about the 60's.

Al: The 60's were the most exciting part of my deanship at the university of Bridgeport. Very interesting. That's probably exaggerated because I enjoyed the other part too but it was a time of a lot of excitement, not necessarily happy ones. And after the university of, let's see, the Berkeley situation, it started hitting the university and we wanted to become a big name university also (?) and one of the big things that began with, the first episode was very significant to university campus was the fact that students resented, being seniors, having to stay in the residences halls. And they resented it very, very much and so they actually battled that and they were trying to speak to Littlefield and myself, I think Harold See was with us about 1968-69, and what happened was they suddenly, after calling Littlefield out of a meeting, were very obscene and they broke up and went marching to Cortright Hall and took that over, and they kept on, they marched in front of it, and they stayed there and we negotiated and they finally won that point. When we came back to Cortright Hall, they tried to make a point, cleaned up the flowers, the vases and so forth, they would straighten out and so forth, they wanted to make a good impression, they were kind of tongue in cheek sort of thing, but that was really that was a

first of the confrontation that occurred at UB when there was, I won't say violence but there was illegal activity which was uncomfortable, which was using other than talk it out, and this went on in different ways. For example they thought there were too many regulations, attendance regulations etc. I remember them taking the Key to UB, (?) that was a big thing with Jim (?) president of the senior class (?) and then a big thing occurred in 1970. That was the time of the Cambodian Invasion. What was happening was other universities were just popping out by students who were going on strike, so what happened was that our students joined what became a national movement, while it was going on and what was interesting was, that the student leaders, it wasn't necessarily the president of the student council, he might be involved, he might not, it was the natural student leaders. And part of their job was, very frankly was just to perk things up. Some of them wanted to preserve the institution, Some of them wanted to let the institution go. And I remember, after the Cambodian Invasion, what occurred was, that the students had planned and they took over buildings, the Library, the computer center and they quit their classes and paraded up and down, and this went on for some time. In the meantime the faculty, the whole community now, the faculty met in regard to the student's request to call off all classes and the faculty was hostile to the university also. You remember this quite well from the University Senate. And there was a real fear that Littlefield, for example, would face the University Senate, and that he would really jeopardize his own safety, so I recall that Littlefield was requested by myself and the police, to stay in the building (?). I had to go to the University Senate and tell the University Senate to call off the meeting and I told that and the Senate said No, we're not going to call off the meeting and You are going to have to run it. So I never actually faced the University Senate and feeling them I didn't have much choice, and in the mean time the students were outside raising hell because they wanted to have someone coming through saying classes were over and they could go home (?) so at that point I had the students in mind, I had to worry about what they were going to do, and there I was supposed to be leading the Univ. Senate, so at that point I asked John Lovell to take over the Univ. Senate in my place, which he did, I don't remember, maybe you do, but thing was that the University Senate got nowhere, the students kept on going on strike but actually the administration met off campus, pretty far off campus, and I recall that Littlefield maybe had been kidnapped, going back to our homes (?) I had a phone call and somebody said our house was going to be bombed in 20 minutes, all that stuff going on. And so what happened was, in the meantime I was trying to keep up contact with students. I felt that it was part of my job, as dean of students, to see them somehow even if they had to come in my home and people dropped in in Milford. Not even with Herb Cohen on campus(?) trying to get in the computer center, they wouldn't let me in. I said Hey, who are you? Even though I was Dean of Stu-

dents they wouldn't let me in. It was getting terrible. I felt that I had a responsibility, after all I was Dean of students, it was my responsibility to do something about this, so I thought the best thing was to get together with a group of people whom I had to choose on the spot and I had the feel that actually people had some clout with their own particular group on campus. So I contacted them, (?) Earle Biggsbee, John Lovell, myself and a couple of students and I think, trying to think who they were, about 10 people all together. We met in my office, and we met about 10 o'clock at night to about 4 o'clock in the morning (?) then the question was How would people accept it? The point was these so called natural leaders etc. could they get the people to do that? I recall as far as the faculty was concerned (?) and we appeared before the faculty and Collier (?) this was agreed upon and that was really the climax of the kind of friction we had on campus. We had a little thing take place (?). But I think it had climaxed then.(?)

It was a period where there was a lot of tension, for example some faculty members insisted upon people coming back to their classes. The proposal said they wouldn't have to do that. I think it was Fran Dolan (female) (?) There was a lot of hostility and tension on campus.

Allen: Did you see this as any connection towards the subsequent move towards unionism, faculty unionism?

Al: (?) The faculty became more belligerent, they had gotten that way in the 60s, and they saw the students actually take over the school and its very possible when you are not satisfied, the faculty might do it.(?)

Allen: How do you account for the growth of faculty unionism?

Al: Of course I went back, Bill, if you recall that early in the Unioversity period we did try to get a union. But in those days we didn't get any where (?) then what happened was, I (?) I'm trying to think what their basic demands were. (?)

Allen: Governance and at the bottomline was money.

Al: What I imagined what happened was, frankly, the union came down (?) What surprised me most was that, they got in.

Allen: Do you think Manning bears any responsibility in this?

Al: Not that I know of.

Allen: Do you recall him speaking to the faculty just before the vote was taken? All right, let's move on to something else. Memorable faculty members, good or bad?

Al: There was a fellow named Kilb, in history, who told exaggerated stories (?) and was just out for action and change and lasted for one year and drifted on, god knows where.

Allen: He was going to campaign for mayor. He was going to oppose Jasper McLevy, and then his girl friend, you remember the story on that don't you? He has his girlfriend in town and then we went on vacation in June, and it got into all the newspapers and radio that she had disappeared. It turned out she had second thoughts about him and then he left shortly afterwards.

Al: I would say, talking about the faculty, John Sherry was a faculty member who loved students (?) He was a guy who drank too heavily in the beginning but was a companion to a lot of students (?) He had a wonderful sense of humor and gave of himself and at the same time (?) A very interesting and exciting man and John Sherry was a fraternity advisor, He just was with the students. He was a bachelor as you know, and this was his family. Throughout the years, John Sherry was always student minded, now being critical, John, I don't think was a political creature, he was just a guy who liked students and he was off the wagon, on the wagon. He was chastised for drinking when he was supposed to be chaperoning,

Allen: Do you remember the boat trip?

Al: I heard about it.

Allen: You weren't on it? I was on it.

Al: Wasn't it Littlefield who spoke to him about? What happened?

Allen: Well, he was drinking and I think one of the administrators came by and he threw a bottle. I don't know where the bottle ended up.

Al: John was a hard drinker but he stopped periodically (?) A wonderful guy and an interesting person. His chuckle I will always remember, when he would tell some kind of a joke.

Allen: His raspy voice, cigar in his mouth, cigar in one corner and talking out of the other corner. Come contract time, he'd always wear his old clothes. John also was a tremendous source of information, did you know that?

Al: (?)

Allen: He knew more about what was going on than anybody else. Ten minutes after a Dean's Council meeting would be over, he had the story about what happened. I don't know who his source was. He and Harry Wechter, remember Harry Wechter?

Al: I remember Harry very well. (?) Interesting characters that may have been around. (?)

Allen: Harry Kendall

Al: Harry Kendall, I think will be remembered by many both for his evening division work, but also for his real interest in the concerns of students. A jolly guy. You'd see Harry any time of day, always kind of peppy and happy and glad to see you and say "Hey, Wolff, what's going here?" and so on. He was a, apparently a good teacher and (?) and I think Harry was important to students.

Allen: I mentioned Chris Collier a little while ago.

Al: I remember Collier, but I was trying to think for a minute, oh, Dave Brown. Dave Brown was a very significant person on campus. He apparently was a fascinating lecturer. And he had a very strong opinion. I remember speaking to Bigsbee about him and Bigsbee had gotten a student evaluation, and there were more students would say the best professor they ever had, and more students said he was the worst professor they ever had, because Dave was, he could be exciting and keep them really excited about Psychology and at the same time be so sarcastic that he was almost cruel, that he would put students in a real (?) I would say that Dave was certainly an interesting character. (?)

Jim Fenner and Bill DiSiero. Jim Fenner was a wonderful lecturer and it was a well known fact that double off on his true false tests. He would not budge. He decided things on a certain date (?) He had a rule that said a student would be debarred from class on the fourth cut, (?) You know also, he had a (?) he was advisor to fraternities, and they enjoyed him, he was very much a part of student life, and he, and that goes also about Bill DeSiero.

Bill DiSiero was probably as important as any other faculty member (?) in regard to human relationships. That was his life, even after he was married. He would go to every student affair. He enjoyed college life, he was like a kid again. He had a vitality, I don't know about his teaching. The fact was that he was Mr. Student Activities. Mr Student Counselor. (?) Bill was, in a way immature, I say immature in the sense that he was so like a kid in many ways, at the same time he was either -. He was very decent guy. He really loved students, he stood by them and cared for them and probably was as much revered as a person, as any faculty member.

Allen: I got to tell you a story about Bill DiSiero. His office was just across the hall from me, we were down in the basement of Dana Hall. Harry Kendall and I had the same office. Collier was across the hall, the language dept. was next door, and kitty cor-

ner over was Bill DiSiero. We had long hours, many students and we tended to get a little slap happy. I had, you may remember my World War I lecture where I fired a pistol. That incidentally is the most memorable, everybody remembers that. Twenty, twenty-five years after.

SIDE SIX

Well, I had a little cap pistol which fired plastic, maybe 12" and we'd played Russian Roulette with that, then we got into the kick of fast draw contests and contests with water pistols. It broke up the day. We got into a few other things, I recall one day we booby trapped Kit Collier's office. One of these little caps that you use in cap pistols and we were waiting for Chris to come in when Doc Ropp came down. And he wanted to go in and leave something on Collier's desk. We'd persuaded him not to. Well after Doc retired, I told him that story and he howled. Doc had a sense of humor.

I ran into Bill DiSiero's son about a year and a half ago. He's teaching now and he was driving a bus during the summer.

Al: What was his name? I remember he had a boy and a girl, I felt so bad about, that Bill left. I know Ann got divorced, she remarried.

Allen: Athletics. Chet Gladchuck was our first football coach, I shouldn't say first because we had a football team back in '28 and '29, but after, as a university, when it was reinstituted, Chet Gladchuck was the coach.

Al: We had a football team back in '28 and '29? All I recall about football was the fact that John Cox and Al Beardsworth and Dan Greany, there was a big , what happened was te 1950. They went into the Administration Bldg. and they demanded a football team and they got it. Gladchuck as the being the first coach, and I recall that people like John Sherry and myself were glad to earn 5 bucks to take tickets for the first game which was at Candlelight Stadium and the first game, we really had a good size population out because in the beginning. you had a lot of peopole following football and it was exciting. Vinny D'Orio - halfback, John Longo was a great runner that we had at that particular time, and Lou Saccone, people like them, but I remember the enthusiasm that we had a first, for football, the university had. And how we faculty members were very glad to make an extra 5 bucks and go and be ticket takers. And then I remember the sadness, 'cause actually I always loved football. I loved to watch it, the crowds went down from 10,000 to 1,500 maybe sometimes even less, and if you weren't winning, and then it picked up when Bob, we had a coach before Nick Nicolau, Bob somebody and we started getting into our Division II and we started to win some and had good football players and I remember going to Atlan-

tic City to watch a playoff and the fact is, that football did lend excitement to the university. We had at one time, well we had the parade of the Schmoos in Candlelight Stadium. And that as we started loosing money on it, Manning said to me, we ought to cut out football and I said to myself I souldn't make that decision. Because at that time I was in Student Personnel and I said I won't make that decision, that can't be done by one person. It's too much and it's too big a consideration because (?)so much money. Well I guess later on, was it Miles that made that decision? But it probably had to be done because of the financial situation, but in other ways, it was really sad. Lot of spirit. We used to have parades through town and we used to have before a football game, weren't they floats?

Allen: Pep rallies, how about other athletics, basketball?

Al: Well, the biggest basketball we had in the early 50's. We had Saccone, Seaman, Lou Radler and (?) go out in national competition. It was just an exciting sort of thing. I very frankly my interst sort of died in the 60's and 70's but it was a big time in the 50's. We had some exciting players. John Baron.

Allen: You referred to "Spider" Wolff and we had a faculty basketball team in the intermurrals.

Al: The faculty basketball team in intermurrals and we went for intermurrals and after I got a bit older, it was much too much for us. We ended up losing to the girl's basketball team.

Allen: Remember John Sherry with his cigar coming up the floor?

Al: I also remember we had a speech teacher named Newcomb. He used to fight with the students. He used to fight over a ball or I can remember being kind of emarrassed about that, yet you and Spiltoir and Herb Glines, Al Sherman, Al Wolff

Allen: And then we had a few others that came and went. We won the intermural league one year. And then there was a play off at what was then the Armory as a pre-lim to one of the games. We won the intermural league that year. A couple of times we went up over a humdred points. We had an awful lot of fun. It is the same way, the students, it was unusual, it was sort of an anomoly to see a faculty member play basketball and in the same way I took up horseback riding and was sort of an assistant instructor in the hoseback riding classes. And the students would do a double take when they would see me out there on a horse as opposed to being in class. And as a matter of fact I could even showboaat a little bit with them. There was one time I could yell at the students in a perfectly normal way for not doing something in getting a horse to canter or even learning how to post or something like that.

Allen: One other note that I had here, Al, we had some fakers amongst the faculty, do you recall anything about any of those?

Al: One of the saddest things that comes to my mind was the fact that he had so much on the ball, gave so much to the University and I really shouldn't (>?) but he did take his degree and that was Fran Dolan (male). Now but he was not harmful to the students. But we had others. A guy named Owen Gear. He had a Japanese wife and we was kind of came down and took a job and parked her someplace. It was summertime and I think in Milford and disappeared for a while.(?) Dean Tillet was not always what he was supposed to be. There was always a question about Stanley's degree (?)

Allen: There was a guy in the Art Dept. Brady who claimed to be a Phi Beta Kappa and he wasn't. He had an actual legitimate degree but we've had our share of these over the years.

Al: I know we have. It's funny how again, as I talk with you, I'm concerned about my memory.

Allen: Don't forget, Al, I've been working on this.

Al: It was all so much a part of my life at one time and it seems to have gone and I really, don't remember.

Allen: We tend to be very selective in our memory particularly as we grow older and things just drop out of mind which no longer are important.

AL: I remember this guy Garner was an unpleasant sort.

ALLEN: Garner's degree was a fake. He used to intercept letters going back to England and then write back letters on stationary that he had, sent them to somebody in England who mailed them. Carl Larsen finally doped it out.

AL: Do you remember some of these?

Allen: Well, Garner, Brady, I'd have to look them up.

ALLEN: Al, we've had a long session and, as a matter of fact, we are on the sixth side counting one which I think the tape may have broken. We'll get that squared away. I'm sure, too, that as we go along there will be some specific questions on events as I get down to some of the nitty-gritty that I will want to call you and ask you about. This has been a delightful time for me and I appreciate your perceptive comments all the way through because they are good and help to remind me of things as well, and are going to be useful.

Al: I've enjoyed being with you. I find myself surprised, very

frankly, of some of the things that don't come back to me because I thought they would. They were very important to me, just seems to have been pushed away. I was trying to think of some anecdotes, in regard to students and what happened with them, and very frankly, there were so many laughs students gave me, and I'm sure I gave them. But at this point I can't think of them.

Allen: Do you have a tape recorder at home?

AL: Yes.

Allen: I'll give you a tape and as some of these occur to you at home, put them on tape, and bring them in. I realize that sessions like this often take you unprepared and should say, now that we have titillated your memory, some of these will occur to you.

AL: Let me ask you a question. I felt that I had obviously had an impact on the student personnel services. Were these questions purposeful?

ALLEN: No I forgot. Because I forgot to give you one of my best stock questions. Let's do that right now. What do you think has been your greatest success at the university?

Al: I think my greatest success, at least my greatest (?) was to try to work with the faculty and students. I got an award from the Scribe in '47 and '48 and it seemed to me to really get the channels of communication going, I felt also that there were times, a lot of failures (?) was to get the student known as a person and show him by personal example I care, but also to work with other people, to share mutual concerns about caring for students. I felt that I was able to stimulate certain programs, especially the faculty advisors. You have to expect that with any kind of program has its rise and its fall, that nothing stays wonderful all the time.

I feel also that I was able to, what I like about my own job is somehow I felt I was a visible dean to students. They knew who the Dean of Students was on campus and now (?) and therefore this was again an important part of communication. I think its important for students to know that that there were a lot of people caring, faculty members and administrators, but it is also important for them to know that there was a person in charge of students who was on the whole caring and sometimes, quite frankly (?) We had programs as regards to sexuality which I felt were stimulative, programs on career days (?) There were programs on even drug abuse. We started many, many things here and we even had at one time a person who worked to coordinate volunteer groups, that was all a part of what was going on. I guess most of all, somehow, I felt that we were here for academic purposes, but we also wanted to show that we were a caring institution, people

here cared, the faculty cared, the administration cared and I was one of those who cared also.

Allen: I usually ask along with this too, what were your greatest failures?

Al: My greatest failures were, in the first place I would say to praise myself. I was never a good man for that (?) My fault were with the programs and the students. I had good people who helped out, so therefore it wasn't that much of a problem. I think I made some mistakes in regards to student disciplinary matters. I feel at times, like for example George Wallace who wrote as a real terrible seggrationalist, but then as times changed, he changed. I think there were times when I was too strict about marijuana, and there were times when I was for example, a girl who would break the honor system and then come back in at one o'clock in the morning. I was little concerned about things like that, but those were the times. Times changed and I had to chage with them. I think that's very, very important. Where did I fall down the most? I knew that I didn't have strength in regards to budget (?) but I look back upon my student personnel days and say (?) You talk about Mike Somer and change of grade. We found some change of grades on a student's transcript and I remember taking that student and grilling him and giving him a hard time as if I was a DA and the student almost sued me and as I look back, I said maybe I didn't have enough evidence, I wasn't giving him enough of his own particular rights. I recall also, in regard to grilling a group of students whom we thought were involved in outside shoplifting. No No, with paying so much money to (?) to actually give them an examination, and I got many girls to confess, and I did that in a very hard way. I'm not so sure in the long run that was good. In other words, what I am saying is that there were times whereby in my desire, so called, get a conviction, I was tougher than I think I should be. Fortunately, I think I am not remembered not as a tough guy.

Allen: OK, well thank you Al. OK, we are back with another story.

Al: We had a situation whereby the police came on campus because one of ur students was involved with a married woman and evidently had burned the house (Stop right there, turn it off) He burned the house where she was living and she was killed. And the police were suspicious about this fellow. They came and they interviewed me as well as him and he was tried in Poukipsie, this is a very interesting situation, because this became like the American Tragedy. What happened was he was a very handsome guy. blond, good looking and intelligent and he was acquitted of that but our enrollment from the Poukeepsie area suddenly soared. The name of Univ. of Bridgeport got so much publicity around there that people started to apply. So, my point is any kind of

news whether it is good or bad, this will turn out to be good for the university from the standpoint of getting more people enrolled. It so happens he was acquitted and but finally he went out West and out West he was caught because he was trying to rob a bank by digging underneath the bank. Apparently he got into the wrong room where he was apprehended.

Allen; What was his name? Stone, was it?

AL: No it wasn't Stone. You would have to ask Jocelyn Roman about it.

ALLEN: How as Joycelyn involved in this?

AL: Well, again this is confidential stuff, (Tape turned off)

End of tape.